

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 5 is canceled by way of this Amendment. Claims 7-16 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-6 and 17-19 presently stand rejected.

Drawings and Specification Amendments

The Examiner has objected to FIGS. 6-8b because they are not labeled --Prior Art--. Applicant amends the drawings to overcome this objection.

The specification is objected to because it appears that “31” is used for two different elements, the first member and the plurality of grooves. Applicant amends the specification and Fig. 7 to refer to the plurality of grooves as “15a”. Also “aperture” on page 9, line 24 is misspelled. Also, FIGS. 8a and 8b are now described separately in the Brief Description of the Drawings.

In addition, “11” and “11c”, of the “Description of the Related Art” are added to Fig. 6 accordingly.

Finally, minor grammatical errors that were recently discovered are corrected in the Specification and Abstract.

Claims

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ray (3,620,474).

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ray (3,620,474) in view of Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art.

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ray (3,620,474).

Analysis

Of the rejected claims, claim 1 is the only claim in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to this independent claim.

Claim 1 is directed to a magnetic tape cartridge reel that includes a hub with a first and second end, and at least one flange which is attached to at least one of the first and second ends of the hub. This flange is formed separately from the hub and is made of a flexible material. Claim 1 has now been amended to clarify that the flange is porous (previously recited in claim 5).

Ray is directed to a reel assembly. In particular, Ray discloses that one of the two flanges should be made of flexible resilient material, such as “Lexan”, which is a plastic sheet material. Ray discloses that the flexible flange should have a thickness of 0.030 inches, which is 0.762 mm. See col. 2, lines 58-75.

The Examiner considers the grooves of the prior art flange in Fig. 7 to render the flange “porous”. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. In particular, porous is understood by those of ordinary skill in the art to mean “having or full of pores” and pores are understood by those of ordinary skill in the art to be “tiny openings”. See *The American Heritage Desk Dictionary*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1981. Common synonyms for porous include “absorbent” and “permeable”.

The prior art flange of Fig. 7 is not porous; rather this flange has very large portions missing altogether, so that the center of the flange is connected to the perimeter of the flange by spindle-like portions. This is completely different than a porous surface.

In view of the foregoing, amended claim 1 is distinguishable from the combination of Ray and the admitted prior art. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have thought to have modified the plastic sheeting material in Ray with a porous material, merely based on the teachings disclosed in Fig. 7, since the flange disclosed therein is not porous.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

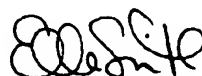
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/699,865

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant has amended FIGS. 6, 7, 8a and 8b to include the legend --Prior Art--. Also, FIG. 6 has been amended to add reference numerals “11” and “11c”. Finally, reference numeral “31” in FIG. 7 has been amended to --15a-- in both instances. The submitted annotated marked-up drawings and replacement sheets are believed to obviate the Examiner’s objection to the drawings.

Attachment: Annotated Marked-Up Drawings
Replacement Sheets

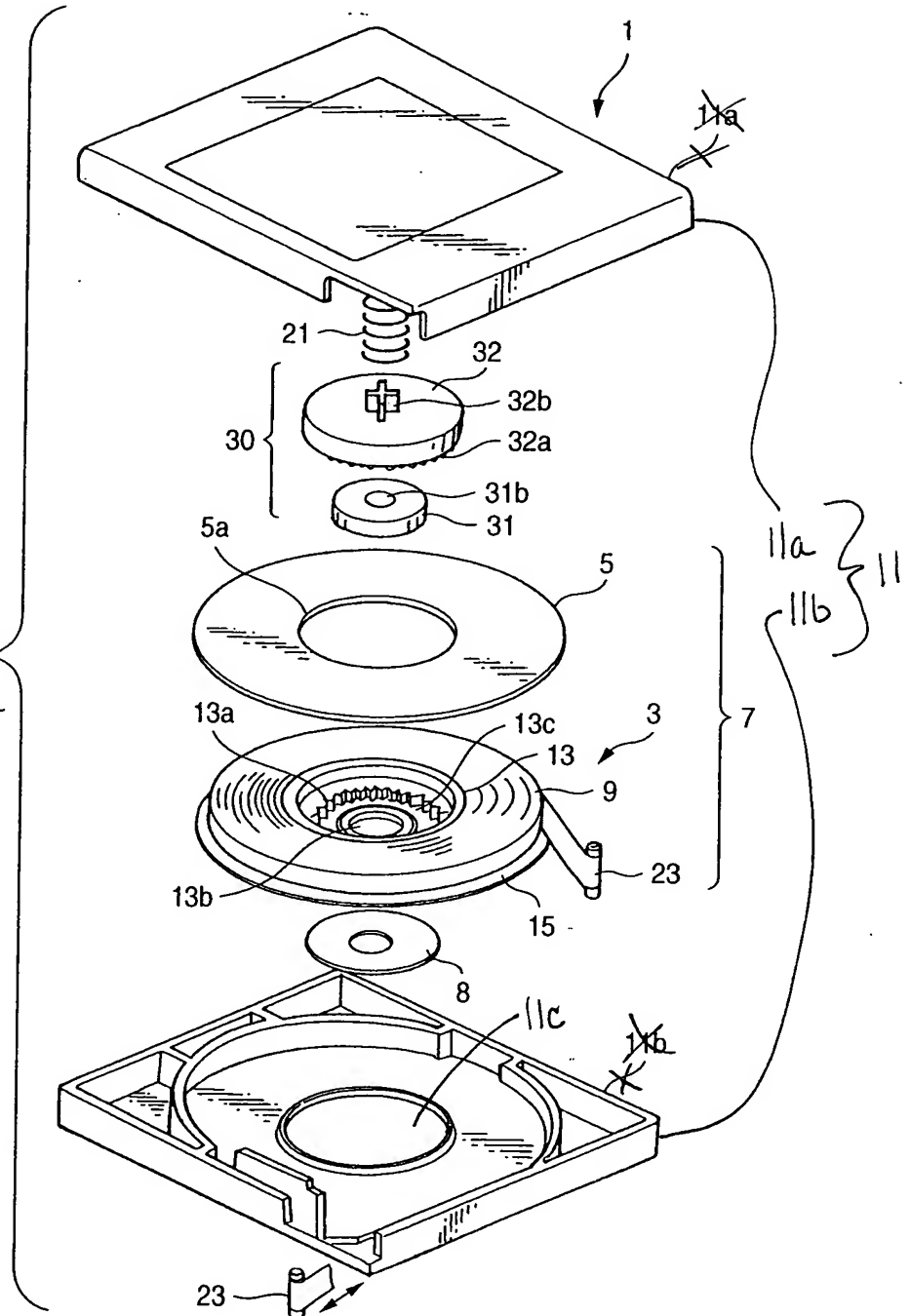




FIG. 7 PRIOR ART

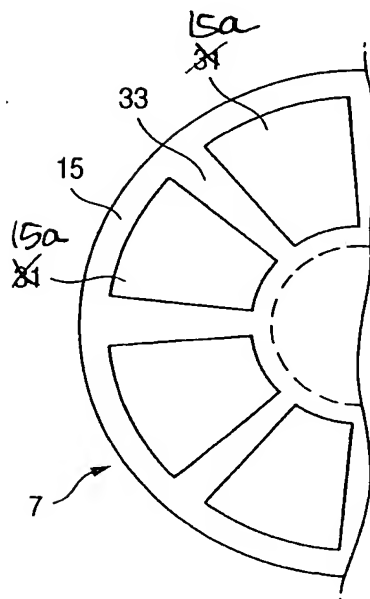


FIG. 8A
PRIOR ART

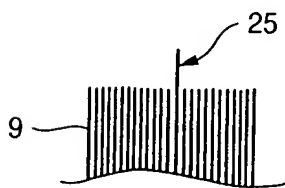


FIG. 8B PRIOR ART

